

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
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Terror Aimed at U.S. Forces

BROKAW: U.S. Army Sergeant Kenneth Ford, who was killed in that West Berlin weekend terrorist bombing, was eulo-

gized at a memorial service today as a super-soldier. Ford's platoon leader said the 21-year-old from Detroit had taught himself German and that he gave candy to children that he met on patrol tours along the Berlin Wall.

There are increasing indications of a Libyan connection to that West Berlin bombing. And the trigger of that attack appears to have been the U.S. Sixth Fleet's showdown with Libya last month.

NBC's Pentagon correspondent Fred Francis has more on this tonight.

FRED FRANCIS: Some of the pilots of the Sixth Fleet came home to Jacksonville, Florida today, the first Navy men to return since the confrontation with Qaddafi in the Gulf of Sidra.

A Pentagon official said today, when the Sixth Fleet sailed away from the Gulf, Qaddafi gave everyone a green light, terrorists he controls and those he influences. The official added, that's what we think we know about Qaddafi's involvement in these latest acts.

In fact, the Administration has more specific evidence. It points directly to this Libyan Embassy, or People's Bureau, in East Berlin. That evidence, decoded radio messages from Libya to this mission in the hours after the nightclub bombing which acknowledged some sort of heroic act. And today the West German newspaper Bild reported that the police there suspect Libyan diplomat Al-Amin, Abdullah Al-Amin (?), based at the East Berlin mission, as the man behind the nightclub attack.

Proving that is the kind of evidence the Attorney General said today the Administration challenged the United States to stop, as well. The United States declined. Administration officials said one reason the U.S. needed to continue testing was to assure the safety and reliability of its nuclear weapons. Knowledgeable critics, such as the former Director of the Arms Control Agency, say that's just a pretext.

GERARD SMITH: I think they have an urge to improve weapons, to develop new ones, and not least, to develop weapons for the Strategic Defense Initiative.

VALERIANI: But the current Director of the Arms Control Agency argues that a ban on testing is not good disarmament strategy.

KENNETH ADELMAN: Our view on arms control is that we need deep reductions of nuclear weapons, and we need it in such a way as to reduce the risk of war. Our idea is that first things must come first, and that's the first priority.

VALERIANI: The Reagan Administration is the first since the Eisenhower Administration not to try to negotiate a ban on nuclear testing. There are no signs that policy will change.